

Hurricane Harvey Response 2017

Community Liaison (CL) Report

Chris Villarreal – Community Liaison Co-Lead

September 28 - 29, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS:

We are forwarding a complaint we received on Friday (9/29/2017) about a hotel in Port Lavaca, Texas, from Tammy Fikac of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

DSHS received a call from someone staying at the Americas Best Value Inn located at 2100 N. Hwy 35 in Port Lavaca. Complainant stated the room was in horrible condition with wet carpet and mold. The complaint was forwarded to our office September 14th. On September 28th I stopped by the location. I drove around the building and noticed all the rooms on the second floor on the back side of the building had roof damage (room numbers 231-251) and rooms 217 and 219. I asked to speak to the manager, Fisher Hwang but he was not available. I left my contact information and have not received a call. I asked the person working the front desk if they have families staying in the hotel because they were displaced due to the hurricane and he replied yes. He checked his computer system and there were no rooms that were blocked off due to structural damage.

Thank you,

Tammy Fikac, RS, CFM
Environmental Services Supervisor
Victoria County Public Health Department
2805 N. Navarro
Victoria, TX 77901
tfikac@vctx.org
(361)578-6281 ext. 3404
(361)579-6348 fax



Public Health
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HIGHLIGHTS

US Congressman Blake Farenthold (27th District Texas) – Town Hall Meeting, Port Aransas

On September 29, 2017, U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold hosted a meeting with representatives from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), the Texas General Land Office (TX GLO), the Red Cross, and City of Port Aransas officials.

Key notes from the meeting include:

- FEMA – October 24th is the deadline to register with FEMA if you received damages from Hurricane Harvey. To date, approximately 834,000 people have registered with FEMA. FEMA stressed that people should register even if they have insurance because FEMA may cover items that may not be covered by insurance.
- SBA – Once a person is registered with FEMA and have had their property inspected by FEMA, some immediate assistance may be provided by FEMA. SBA will then step in and can offer below market loans (1.75%) to the impacted resident. If they qualify for a SBA loan, they can either accept the loan or decline the loan. If they decline the loan, they cannot go back to FEMA. If they are declined a SBA loan, they can go back to FEMA to request additional assistance.
- TX GLO signed a negotiated agreement with FEMA for disaster assistance. The TX GLO, in partnership with the Councils of Government, will work with local officials from affected regions to determine which program options will best address the needs of individual communities. The program will initially focus on short term housing for up to 18 months. Program options include: apartment leases, mobile homes, and direct repair of impacted houses.
- Red Cross – over 500,000 people have successfully applied for aid and over \$5,000,000 has been distributed (\$186,000 in Port Aransas). The audience members mentioned that 98% of applications from Port Aransas have been denied.

Congressman Blake Farenthold Meeting



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September 28 - 29, 2017

FROM: Rebecca Wenner, Liz Blackburn, Sam Porter, and Chris Villarreal
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas (Rockport)
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

- Visited the First Baptist Church Volunteer Reception Center and left additional information brochures. Their needs include tools and volunteers.
- Attended the Volunteer coordination meeting at 11:15 am at the Apple Dumpling Bistro. Several groups were in attendance: Americorp (who is staffing the Volunteer Reception Center at the First Baptist Church), Rockport Relief Camp, New Beginnings Ministries, Horse Rescue, Public Relations for the City of Rockport, Texas Conservation Corps, Maricopa Pantry. The meeting helped the entities coordinate volunteers and donations and organize recovery efforts. We explained our purpose and obtained e-mail addresses for each organization to send the handouts and web page links to.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

FROM: Rebecca Wenner, Liz Blackburn, Sam Porter, and Chris Villarreal
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas (Bayside)
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

- The City of Bayside offices were closed when we got there and their donation center was locked so we were unable to deliver any additional handouts.

QUESTIONS/COMMENT:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

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Chris Villarreal – Community Liaison Co-Lead

September 28 - 29, 2017

FROM: Rebecca Wenner, Liz Blackburn, Sam Porter, and Chris Villarreal
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas (Woodsboro)
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

- We spoke to the Ruby De La Garza, City Secretary, who told us that 85% of the homes had some damage with several being totally destroyed. They are coordinating their recovery efforts on a city Facebook page. They said that the closest DRC is in Refugio. We are e-mailing handouts and web pages.
- We spoke to Dennis Wright at Grunt Rescue, which is a volunteer organization helping local residents with clean-up and organizing donations of goods. He said they were going to set up here and help in Rockport, but saw a greater need in this small town and stayed. In addition to coordinating volunteers and food and cleaning supplies, they have also been rescuing dogs. They can provide mold PPE. We gave him Spanish mold information to help the citizens they visit and will email him additional resources.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- City of Woodsboro recommended that we visit Austwell and Victoria.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

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Community Liaison (CL) Report

Chris Villarreal – Community Liaison Co-Lead

September 28 - 29, 2017

FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas (Rockport)
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

Billy Graham Ministry

- Stopped at their mobile unit and we were told they were there to provide critical incident stress management to residents and volunteers. We spoke with Kathy Moore and Kerry Galagan.
- Informed us that Samaritan's Purse was their sister organization and they are organizing volunteers who are assisting with clean up. They are based out of the First Baptist Church on Wildcat in Portland. The contact there is Randy Corn (828) 434-3774.
- Samaritan's Purse provides training to their volunteers, which have completed over 23,000 hours of work and completed 180 jobs.

First United Methodist Church

- Provided brochure on mold removal to contractor working in the church.

New Beginnings Ministry

- Spoke with Laura Baylor.
- Provide food, cleaning supplies, apple cider (for mold remediation), clothing.
- They are serving approximately 125 families per day.
- They are only serving residents of Aransas County, have two other locations in Salt Lake and Sinton.
- They are working with the Department of Agriculture and the Food Bank of Corpus Christi.

Templo La Fe

- Located at 105 Kelly Lane, Rockport, TX 78382.
- Spoke with pastor's wife, Hermelinda Alfaro, pastor is Ismael Alfaro.
- They have been providing assistance for over a month, providing 150 meals per day.
- The Red Cross is delivering meals there 2x per day.
- We provided them pamphlets on mold remediation.

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Red Cross

- Spoke with them while they were dropping food to Templo La Fe.
- They informed us that they had 8 trucks in the area, and were delivering food 2x per day.
- We provided them pamphlets on mold remediation to include with the remainder of their deliveries for the day.

Bethel Baptist Church

- Located at the corner of Bay Street and Kossuth.
- Spoke with some of the volunteers there, they were providing food, cleaning supplies
- Provided them with information on mold remediation.
- They have also brought in doctors and nurses from Los Angeles to assist with medical needs.
- While there we spoke with a citizen who informed us her five year old son had to be rushed to the emergency room because he couldn't breathe as a result of mold exposure. The apartments in which she was residing had painted over the mold without cleaning it up. Apartment complex is Portside Villa in Inglewood. She was concerned that there was no health department in Ingleside to report apartment complex to. They have moved out of their apartment and are now homeless.
- Another citizen who had discovered mold behind the paneling of her home, was very happy to receive information on mold remediation from us.

Hawkins Chiropractor

- Renting space out temporarily from Gospel Lighthouse Church (922 Highway 35).
- Part of the church was damaged, but they were renting space out in undamaged area. Will be there for two more weeks.
- Provided them with a brochure on mold remediation.

Pentecostal Church in Rockport

- Left information with a church member.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Aransas Pass has not seen the Red Cross.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: San Patricio (Aransas Pass)
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

Primera Iglesia Bautista

- Provided them with some information on mold remediation.

First United Methodist Church -Aransas Pass

- We saw some All Hands Volunteers – handed her information on mold remediation.
- She informed me that they had our brochures at their headquarters.

Coastal Bend Family Worship Center

- Located at 700 Greenwood Ave.
- They are providing food and cleaning supplies to anybody that needs them.
- Email is being sent to Stacy Howe, Rivendellranch05@gmail.com

First Christian Church- Aransas Pass

- Have a leased backhoe that they are utilizing to assist citizens with vegetation removal.
- They already had some pamphlets from us.

St. Mary's State of the Sea Catholic Church

- We provided her with a pamphlet, but we need to email Naiely at office@stmaryss.org. Please send information in Spanish as well.

First Baptist Church – Aransas Pass

- They want brochures.
- fbcap@yahoo.com

Church of Christ

- Their church was damaged with water that came in through their vents, were in the process of rebuilding.
- We need to email pamphlets to nanaki05@hotmail.com

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: NA

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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Chris Villarreal – Community Liaison Co-Lead

September 28 - 29, 2017

FROM: Greg Valentine, Joyce Johnson, Dorelle Harrison, and Whitney Bynum
SUBJECT Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas
DATE: 09/28/2017

SUMMARY:

- CLs went to the DRC in Rockport to check on their progress. FEMA informed us that they are processing approximately 150 people per day and they expect to have their new air conditioned tent on Saturday, September 30, 2017. The Red Cross was handing out totes and cleaning supplies, and the Texas Emergency Management tent was continuing their donation handouts.
- Went to First Presbyterian Church to offer our information. We received contact information from Beverly Jacobson, “the Church Lady”, 361-463-6528 and fpc.churchlady@yahoo.com. She requested we send our brochures to her electronically.
- First Methodist Church, 801 Main Street, Rockport, TX and they had a sign reading: ***Rx*** (Prescription) ***Assistance, (361) 729-1659. Leave a name and telephone number, speak clearly and slowly.***
- Church Unlimited – Rockport Campus, 902 Main Street, Rockport, TX. Received email address of the team leader (emilv@church-unlimited.org). They work with Samaritan’s Purse and take volunteers that meet their statement of faith. All others are sent to the First Baptist Church Volunteer Reception Center (VRC).
- Bethel Baptist Church, West Bay Street, Rockport, TX. Met with Jeff Aguilar (jeff@verticalhov.com) of Jordan International Aid (JIA), a worldwide nonprofit medical relief organization that provides free primary care and prescriptions. We gave them Courtney Goss’s contact information and suggested they call and coordinate with her to network with other volunteer organizations in the area. We later called Ms. Goss and informed her of JIA. She said that if they weren’t at the EOC Relief Organization meeting this morning that they are not registered with the county. Ms. Goss stated that she will await JIA’s call and forward them to the appropriate person.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

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FROM: Sam Porter, Liz Blackburn, and Rebecca Wenner
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Victoria
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

1. Emergency Operations Center
Contact – David Gonzales Title: Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, (316) 580-5771, dgonzales@victoriatoem.org
 - Biggest problem is mold
 - Sent us to DRC and health department
 - We provided information and will send pdfs
 - Had a boil order for 10 day
2. DRC
Contact -msandra.wilson@fema.dhs.gov
 - Spoke with DRC manager and deconstruction manager for local FEMA DRC.
 - Seeing many mold issues and receiving a high number of questions of mosquitoes.
 - Suggested contacting the school districts, hotels, and nursing homes.
3. Health Department, Environmental Health Division
Contact – tfikac@vctx.org
 - Getting mold complaints from residents
 - Getting a high number of questions about mold
 - Concerned about who to contact for hotel or apartment complex concerns
 - Also concerned about mosquitoes
4. Waples United Methodist Church
Contact – Kim Huff, kim@waplesumc.org
 - Provided information on indoor air quality and mold
 - Plan to use the material to train volunteers
5. City Hall: Development Services, Public works, Environmental Services
Contacts – environmental services, Kate m. Garcia, (361) 485-3230, kgarcia@victoriatx.org. public works = Roland Rodriguez, (361) 485-3381, moriguez@victoriatx.org. development services = Dora Gomez, dgomez@victoriatx.org, (361) 485-3320
 - Environmental service – deal with indoor air quality sampling for ozone. They are having problems with mosquitoes.

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- Public works – provided information on septic systems and public wells. About 3 public wells in town.
- Development Center – receiving a very high number of complaints and questions regarding mold. This department enforces building codes and writes permits.
- We provided information on mold to all and will send pdfs to all we met at the City.

6. Victoria Independent School District

Contact – Christy Christensen, assistance superintendent of administration, (361) 788-9330

- We provided information on mold remediation in schools. We will provide her information on mold, mosquitoes, and indoor air quality.

7. Habitat for Humanity

Contact – Gloria Rodriguez, (361) 573-2511, Gloria@goldencrescenthabitat.org

- Provided information on mold
- Requested information on indoor air quality and mold.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

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FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: San Patricio (Portland)
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

First Baptist Church

- Located at 1305 Wildcat Dr. in Portland, TX 78374.
- Stopped to speak with Samaritan's Purse.
- They have 970 work orders, mostly Rockport.
- Also assisting residents of Ingleside, Aransas Pass, Port Aransas, Portland, Fulton.
- They have been assisting since the Wednesday after the hurricane hit.
- People can request assistance in person, or by calling 361 445-2645.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: NA

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: San Patricio (Gregory)
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

- Located at 107 Church Street, Gregory, TX.
- Spoke with David Solis, he would like copies of the pamphlets.
- Email is being sent to David Solis at Davesolis90@gmail.com.
- We noted that several of the homes in Gregory had tarps on their roofs.

Primera Iglesia Bautista

- Located at 310 Slate Street
- Nobody was there.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: NA

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: San Patricio (Aransas Pass)
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

Lowes

- Spoke with Valentin Deleon, the Store Manager.
- We provided him some pamphlets, they already had some information on mold remediation that had been sent to them by their headquarters.
- Email with pamphlets is being sent to Valentin.M.Deleon01@store.lowes.com

McCoys Building Supply

- Spoke with Sal Lopez, the Store Manager.
- We provided him some pamphlets.
- Email with pamphlets is being sent to SalLopez@McCoys.com

Demolished or Damaged Churches Visited

- Landmark Apostolic Pentacostal Church (church completely demolished).

Churches Visited but Closed

- Assembly of God Church Parsonage
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- Word of God Church

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: NA

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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FROM: Rob Luschek, Ted Palit, David Robertson, and Delia Garcia
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: San Patricio (Ingleside)
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

Church of Christ

- Located at 2138 1st Street.
- There were some volunteers there assisting residents with brush removal.
- Left a handout on mold remediation with Gary.

Demolished or Damaged Churches Visited

- North Bay Fellowship Church
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Central Baptist Church

Churches Visited but Closed

- Primera Iglesia Bautista
- Ingleside Church of New Testament
- First Baptist
- Ingleside United Methodist Church (closed but left fliers at door)
- Eternal Rock
- Our Lady of the Assumption

SOS Evangelical Ministries

- Could not locate

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: NA

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: NA

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September 28 - 29, 2017

FROM: Greg Valentine, Joyce Johnson, Dorelle Harrison, & Whitney Bynum
SUBJECT: Summary Activity by the Team
COUNTY: Aransas
DATE: 09/29/2017

SUMMARY:

- Attended the EOC Meeting in Rockport, TX, at 8 am this morning.
 - All Federal agencies were asked to stand; was thanked for coming to assist the community and was applauded by the group. (USCG, EPA, FEMA and SBA.)
 - FEMA has assisted 12,367 people and provided over \$12 million in assistance
 - Aransas County Children's Coalition, volunteer organization, by the First Baptist Church is coordinating with other area local churches to provide childcare. They operate in Aransas County Library (opening next Tuesday) and the Yacht Club & Library (Tuesdays)
 - 67,414 cubic yards of debris cleared in Aransas County.
 - 405, 000 cubic yards of debris cleared by Crowder in Aransas County.
 - Confusion as to where the FEMA Business forms are routed after being filled out. It was determined that it should go to the local county auditor, then to State, then to FEMA for tracking purposes.
 - Holiday Beach & Lamar requested their port-a-potties be returned – disappeared yesterday.
 - Temporary Housing (STAR) request a week ago has not been answered. County wanted an answer by the end of the day.
 - Next Meeting is Monday, October 2, 2017, at 4 pm.
- Following the meeting we spoke with the Rockport Relief Camp folks.
 - They have started to give Tetanus shots every Monday & Wednesday. They are trying to partner with an Urgent Care Clinic (Twin Mountains?) in front of the Ace Hardware in Rockport, TX. UT – Health in San Antonio, TX, is providing the medication. They are currently having chain-of-custody issues and are trying to work them out.
 - Andrews Sommers, Logistics Specialist for Rockport Relief Camp, provided us his phone number in case we need to contact him (432) 235-4582.
 - Live entertainment at the camp every weekend (karaoke, live music, etc.).
- Spoke with FEMA area manager, Jeff (no last name provided) and he informed us that they are planning to open another DRC in Beeville, TX, on Monday, October 2, 2017.
- Spoke with County Commissioner Jack Chaney (Precinct 1-1A) of Aransas County after the EOC meeting.

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- He also operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant in the area, and invited EPA out to take a tour of his facility as well as provide guidance on emergency planning.
 - Commissioner Chaney inquired about funding for a standby generator.
 - During Hurricane Harvey his coverage area was only without water for an hour.
- Observed a *Well Aware* flier in the lobby of the Rockport, TX, Police Station. The following information was on the flyer. Sarah Evans, Founder & Executive Director, (512) 431-1679 (cell); (254) 713-220352 (Kenya Cell); (512) 200-7312 (office); sarah@wellawardworld.org; Mailing address: 3571 Far West Blvd. PMB 229, Austin, TX 78731; Physical Address: 411 West Monroe, Austin, TX 78704; Twitter: @sarahaware; Linked In: /in/sarahnell/
- CLs went to the Fairgrounds at Rockport, TX. Ms. Joanne Buchannan (361-561-7657) of the Coastal Bend Food Bank, and her crew, was there to distribute about 45,000 pounds of food and toiletries. After the families went through the food line to receive their goods, they stopped and talked to the CLs who distributed EPA pamphlets and resources.
- The Coastal Bend Food Bank will be in Aransas Pass City Hall tomorrow.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: